

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. At this time the Chair will entertain 1-minute until further business comes before the House.

STOP PUNISHING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, we have made a little progress here today. We can balance the budget of the Federal Government in 7 years; we can bring fiscal responsibility to Washington, DC. I myself have drawn up a detailed budget. It is going to require some tough choices.

But, Mr. Speaker, we are going to have to abandon goodies like huge tax cuts. We are going to have to go after corporate welfare and subsidies. We are going to have to reduce agriculture subsidies. We are going to have to go after the sacrosanct Pentagon and eliminate useless weapons like the B-2 bomber and star wars.

There are a number of other places where tough choices are going to have to be made. But in order to get there, we do not need to punish Federal employees and their families. We should stop doing that.

Mr. Speaker, we have made some progress on that today with a temporary resolution to put people back to work. There is a question of whether or not those employees, when they go back to their places of work, are going to have the resources they need to do their jobs. That may be resolved later this evening.

So, perhaps in addition to stopping the punishment of employees, we can stop the punishment of taxpayers. Put the Government back to work and Congress and the White House can get down to its job of balancing the budget.

THE EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out a very, very important fact I think every American should be aware of. We passed a continuing resolution today that simply says all the President of the United States has to do is submit a budget that is balanced in 7 years as scored by the CBO, the Government will open up.

But shamefully the President, before the ink was even dry on that bill, announced that he would not do it. The emperor has no clothes. We now know that the President does not want to

balance the budget. There is no pretense. There is no disguising it. He has admitted to the public that he does not want to balance the budget and that he will not balance the budget.

What we are about doing is getting this Government opened up and running, despite a President who is determined to do everything in his power to make sure that we do not balance the budget.

What the President is doing, in my opinion is wrong. I ask all my colleagues to work with us on both sides of the aisle to try to get this Nation back up and running.

REPUBLICANS SHOULD ESCHEW ATTACKS ON SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

(Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Republicans are frustrated. Watching the "Gong Show" they have been putting on today underlines that. But scapegoating when frustrated is not appropriate behavior.

Mr. Speaker, this attack that is now coming on Secretary of the Treasury Rubin, and the preposterous suggestion that he might be impeached, has served no purpose except to cause serious problems in the bond market, because some of those people think that people on the other side might actually be serious, not having had firsthand exposure to them.

Robert Rubin is guilty of doing his job superbly. He had a hearing before the House Committee on Banking. When the Republicans talked to him and asked him questions, they were not able to come forward with a single suggestion of anything that he had done inappropriately. I asked Republicans and their only objection was that we did not have their version of a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, threatening to impeach an outstanding public official because they disagree with his having freed a hostage they have taken is one of the tactics that the Republicans ought to eschew. Why do they not go back to their fifth, sixth, and seventh CR instead?

WE NEED TO BALANCE THE BUDGET IN 7 YEARS

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it is always refreshing to hear the comments of my good friend from Massachusetts, and to hear the frustration on that side of the aisle, especially when it comes to the Secretary of the Treasury and his effort to dillydally around with the debt limit, the debt ceiling, being so in love with the notion of keeping the Government operating that he would take pension funds to

pay it; an oath of fealty to keeping the Government running instead of being true to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, neither side has all the answers, but the fact remains that we must remain true to our country, to our Constitution, and to generations yet unborn by at long last passing a budget that comes into balance in 7 years, using honest numbers.

Let us get past frustration and let us see productivity and once again we reach out our hand to the minority party. Join with us and govern this Nation.

CONCERNING THE DEBT CEILING

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take up where the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] left off concerning the debt ceiling.

Mr. Speaker, do we never learn? We are going through an exercise now concerning the continuing resolution. Across these United States the people do not know about a continuing resolution. What they see is that we stopped the Government. The people were told either to be idle or to come to work and not get paid.

Mr. Speaker, today we have got it half right. We are having the people come back to work, but we are not giving them the tools of the trade. Let us not get involved with the debt ceiling in this kind of carryings on. The debt ceiling has to do with what the United States of America owes. Money owed is money that should be paid. It is money already spent. It is the full faith and credit of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, let us next week pass a debt ceiling so that we can go on with getting the budget balanced in 7 years. We mixed apples and oranges with the budget negotiations with the continuing resolution. Let us please not allow the debt ceiling and this type of carryings on.

THE WAY TO OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

(Mr. MANZULLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, the House has passed several measures today. Let me concentrate on one that is very, very simple. It extends to the President an opportunity to do something historic. We are saying very simply: If by January 26 the President of the United States submits a balanced budget in 7 years, scored by the neutral Congressional Budget Office, then we will agree to open up the entire Government 100 percent.

Mr. Speaker, that means at that point that both parties have their budget on the table or in the process of

negotiating. That is the bottom line. That is how simple it is. That is how to reduce a day of very complicated transactions into one line. Give us a balanced budget agreement or proposal scored by the neutral Congressional Budget Office and we will agree to open up the Government.

WORKING WITHOUT PAY AND BEING PAID NOT TO WORK

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, in an extraordinary change of policy, my Republican colleagues have changed our policy with regard to payment of our Federal employees. For the last 3 weeks American workers who work for the Federal Government had been working without pay. For the next 3 weeks under the resolutions that we have adopted today, Americans who work for the Federal Government will be paid without working.

Mr. Speaker, this is an extraordinary change, and neither of the two sets of circumstances are desirable from the standpoint of any kind of common sense. My suggestion to my Republican colleagues is let us get together. Let us work the issues out. Let us have some honest discussion. Let us not play games. Let us do the business of the country. That is what we are here for.

Mr. Speaker, I would remind my Republican colleagues, they are the majority, it is their duty to rule and to govern. It is their duty to run the place. To complain constantly about the President refusing to submit budgets ill becomes them, ill befits this institution, and does little except to bring all of us into a state of disrepute and degradation.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to function as a majority responsibly should.

NATIONAL COMMISSION TO STUDY IMPACT OF GAMBLING

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, what we did today was good and appropriate. It kept the commitment and the word that the leadership and others in Congress made, and that was that Federal employees would not lose any salary, and they have not lost any salary and they will return to work and that will be good. I thank the Members on both sides of the aisle that brought that about. We thank the leadership because it is very, very positive.

One other thing I want to announce, and hopefully we can work together on this, when we come back we will be bringing up legislation which will set up a national commission to investigate the impact that gambling is having in the country. Twenty years ago

only two States had gambling. Now, 48 States have some sort of gambling and 24 have riverboat and casino gambling.

Mr. Speaker, it will be a national commission of nine men and women who have no bias on this issue, who will look to see what the impact of gambling has been on the country. Has it been good or bad? Has there been corruption involved in it? Has there been involvement with regard to political contributions? What has the impact been on other businesses? What has the impact been on addiction?

Hopefully, with what we did in the bipartisan manner today putting Federal employees back to work and paying them, we will pass this bill shortly when we come back.

CLOSING GOVERNMENT IS AN EMBARRASSMENT

(Mr. MINGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, we have been treated to an exercise in petty brinkmanship in this institution. It will become the Congress of the United States of America and certainly has disappointed and embarrassed all of the residents of our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, in visiting with county commissioners in my home State, I certainly have become aware that they are keenly embarrassed. They say that if any county government had to shut its doors because the county commissioners could not agree on a budget, that they essentially would be forced to resign by the public pressure in that community.

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What are we doing? We are sitting here in Washington. We are not resolving this problem. Instead we are engaging in party bickering, and we have one side that is refusing to let the other side even vote on a resolution to put the Government back to work. Instead we are bouncing continuing resolutions back and forth between the House and the Senate.

Let us get together, let us pass the resolution that was introduced on the Senate side and put America back to work.

PRIVATE SECTOR RISES TO OCCASION IN SHUTDOWN

(Mr. TORKILDSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, today we did an important thing. We allowed Federal employees to go back to work and provide services that the taxpayers have been paying for. But I want to point out something else. We have people in the private sector who have also risen to the occasion. Several banks in my district, Fleet Bank, Bank of Boston, were willing to extend no-interest loans to those employees who

may not have been able to draw a paycheck.

I know our colleague, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. KELLY], had arranged an agreement for five community banks in her district to do the same thing.

While there is a temptation to do a lot of blaming and a lot of name calling, I would ask everyone to resist and instead let us say thank you to those people in the private sector who stepped forward and said, "Let us do what we can to help," whether it be offering a no-interest loan, whether it be delaying payments on bills that are owed, realizing that there is a crisis out there that was not of many people's making.

In the meantime, now that we have a pay bill for 3 weeks, let us all come together to work out a balanced budget, a truly balanced budget. It has been stated time and time again that is what the President wants. Now is his opportunity to bring one forward.

EXAMINING THE SPEAKER'S UPCOMING TRAVEL SCHEDULE

(Mr. SANDERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, if we want to understand why in this country the richest people are becoming richer while most working people are seeing a decline in their standard of living, if we want to understand why the Contract With America provides for huge tax breaks for the wealthiest people and the largest corporations while it cuts back massively on programs for the elderly, working people, and low-income people, we might want to examine NEWT GINGRICH's travel schedule for the coming week.

Mr. GINGRICH will be in Seattle, WA, where he will have dinner with his colleagues and his friends for the Washington State Republican Party for \$1,000 each. He will be in Dallas, TX, for a dinner for only \$10,000 apiece. He will be in Dearborn, MI, for another private fireside reception at \$10,000.

Who goes to these events? Most people that I know do not spend \$1,000 for a dinner.

KINGSTON CRITICIZES EXCESSIVE TRAVEL OF ENERGY SECRETARY

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the Member from the other side brought up travel. Let us talk about travel.

When the Speaker goes on a trip, he is paying for it with his own campaign money. But when your Democrat Secretary of Energy goes on a trip, for example, \$660,000 to South Africa, \$500,000 to Pakistan, \$845,000 to China, \$50,000 on the weekly shuttle to Vienna, Moscow, or Paris, or the low-discount rate